

Q: How were the Acceler8 projects selected?

A: The projects were selected because of the immediate benefits they can provide to the Everglades and the South Florida ecosystem. Additionally, most of the land for these projects are already in public ownership – acquired with both federal and state partnership funds.

Specific benefits of the selected Acceler8 projects include: Increasing the storage capability of the C&SF Project, improving water deliveries to the estuaries, improving hydropatterns in the Everglades, improving ecosystem water quality, improving habitat in Lake Okeechobee, and increasing water supplies, to name a few. Spatially located throughout South Florida, Acceler8 will provide benefits over a wide area of the greater Everglades ecosystem.

Q: What happens to all of the other Everglades Restoration projects?

A: The South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will continue their partnership in implementing the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). Acceler8 projects will continue in a “dual-track” mode with the Corps and District continuing in the planning phases for these and all of the CERP projects, while the District will proceed with the more detailed design and construction of the Acceler8 projects. The main objective of Acceler8 is to get Everglades restoration projects in the ground sooner, while maintaining momentum of the overall CERP program.

Q: Will Acceler8 address water quality issues?

A: Yes. The Acceler8 projects comprise a variety of multipurpose projects that will improve the quality, quantity, timing and distribution of water in many areas of the South Florida ecosystem. In some cases, such as the EAA STA Expansion project, water quality improvement is the primary purpose of the project. Most of the Acceler8 projects will result in improved water quality.

Q: What allows these projects to be accelerated?

A: Reaffirming the federal/state/local partnership to move forward with Everglades restoration as quickly as possible, the South Florida Water Management District will finance the construction of these eight projects with “Certificates of Participation” revenue bonding. As opposed to the conventional “pay-as-you-go” approach, this will provide the up-front funding needed to put these specific projects on an accelerated design and construction pace.

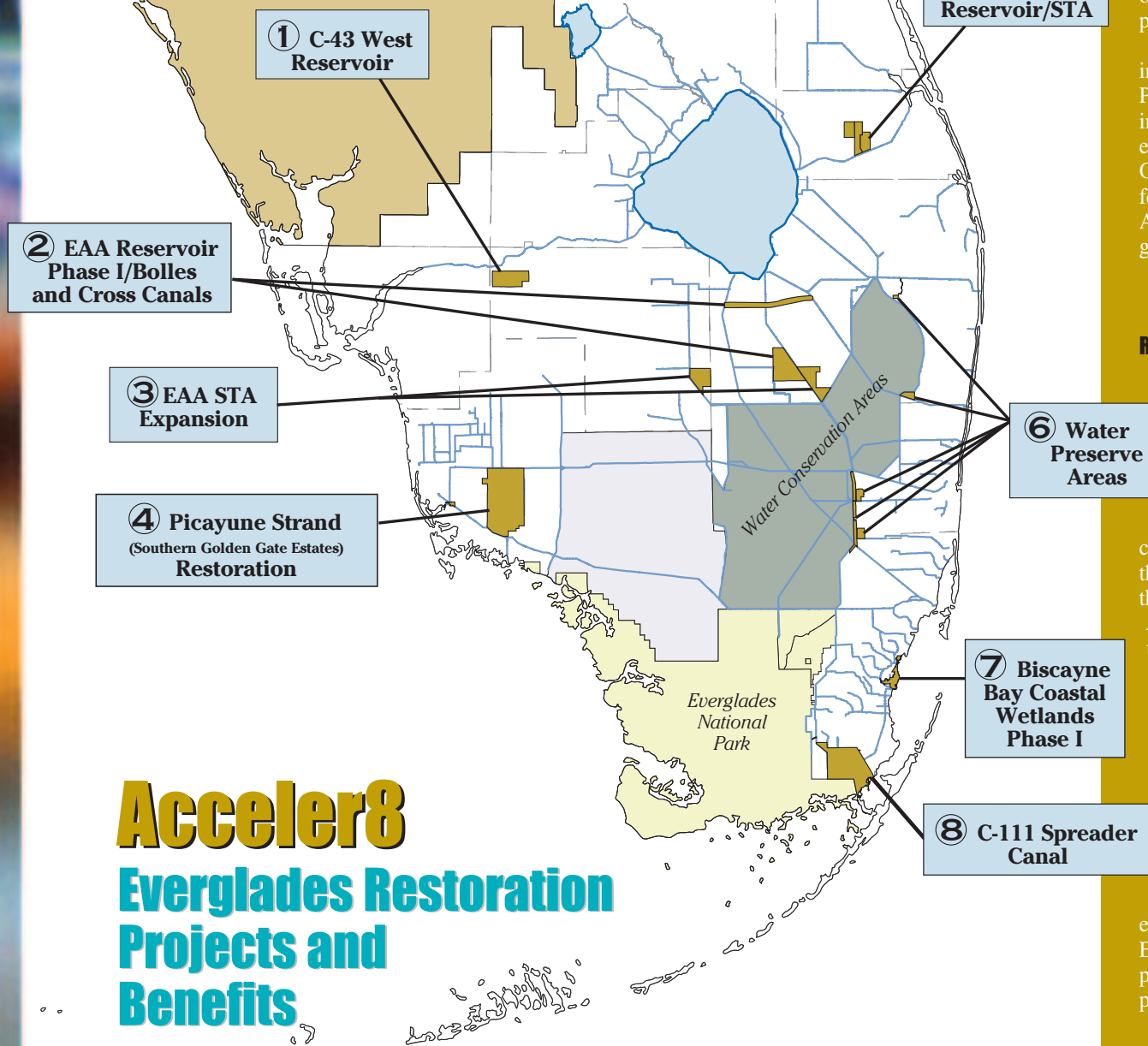
Q: What are Certificates of Participation?

A: Florida statutes define Certificates of Participation (COPs) as a type of revenue bond that a water management district may issue “to finance the undertaking of any capital or other project for the purposes permitted by the State Constitution.” COPs are statutorily authorized tax exempt certificates showing participation through ownership of a “share” of lease payments for a capital facility of a government agency. Counties, county school boards and municipalities have been using this type of financing for many years.

Q: Will the public and other agencies continue to have opportunities for involvement?

A: Absolutely. Opportunities for agency and stakeholder input will continue to be provided in the Acceler8 process through numerous avenues, including public Governing Board meetings/workshops and state/federal permitting processes.

Find out more
by visiting
ACCELER8
evergladesnow.org



Acceler8 Everglades Restoration Projects and Benefits

1. C-43 (CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER) WEST RESERVOIR

The above-ground C-43 (Caloosahatchee River) West Reservoir, located in Hendry County, will capture and store regulatory water releases from Lake Okeechobee, reducing the number and volume of harmful discharges to the coastal estuaries.

2. EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA RESERVOIR - PHASE 1 WITH BOLLES & CROSS CANALS IMPROVEMENTS

Located in western Palm Beach County, this Acceler8 project will capture, move and store regulatory water releases from Lake Okeechobee, reducing harmful discharges to the coastal estuaries and will improve treatment capabilities of stormwater treatment areas.

3. EAA STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA EXPANSION

Located in Hendry and Palm Beach counties, this Acceler8 project will expand STA-2, STA-5 and STA-6 to further reduce phosphorus levels and help achieve state water quality standards for the Everglades.

4. PICAYUNE STRAND (SOUTHERN GOLDEN GATE ESTATES) RESTORATION

Located in western Collier County, this Acceler8 project will restore a more natural sheetflow of water across wetlands that were overdrained by development.

5. C-44 (ST. LUCIE CANAL) RESERVOIR/STA

The C-44 (St. Lucie Canal) Reservoir/Stormwater Treatment Area, located in southern Martin County, will improve water quality entering the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon, improving the health of the ecosystem. The project will also help decrease excess water flow to the estuary.

6. WATER PRESERVE AREAS

Five Water Preserve Areas, located adjacent to Water Conservation Areas in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties, will improve water quality and water flow in the Everglades.

7. BISCAYNE BAY COASTAL WETLANDS - PHASE 1

Located in eastern Miami-Dade County, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands - Phase 1 will restore the quality, quantity, timing and distribution of fresh water to Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park, improving the health of this unique coastal ecosystem.

8. C-111 SPREADER CANAL

Located in southern Miami-Dade County, the C-111 Spreader Canal will restore wetland and estuarine ecosystems, as well as maintain flood protection and recreational opportunities, by restoring a more natural water flow to Florida Bay.